

July 5, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair, Committee on the judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Hon. Camille Velez Rivé

Dear Sirs,

I am a Trustee of the Supreme Court Historical Society, President of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court Foundation, Sustaining Life Fellow and former President and Director of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association and Chair of its Fellows, Charter Member of Pietrantonio Mendez & Alvarez and a long standing member of the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and of Puerto Rico. I write to you to unconditionally and very strongly support the confirmation of United States Magistrate Judge Camille Velez Rivé as an Article III Judge of United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Both from my extensive private practice of decades before the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and throughout my multiple roles in the referenced organizations, I know Magistrate Judge Velez Rivé extremely well. After having graduated Magna Cum Laude from law school, she worked and excelled as an associate at my Firm for three years. In 1998 a loss to my Firm became an extraordinary win for public service when she became an Assistant U.S. Attorney and six years later a Magistrate Judge. Her intelligence, demeanor and work-ethic in all her professional endeavors has been and is truly unique. Federal practitioners, who unanimously admire her fairness, studiousness, diligence court-control and intellect, not to mention her maturity and great, cheerful personality regardless of the pressures or demands on her, believe her proven talents as a Magistrate Judge since 2004, are exactly the ones needed for an excellent Article III Judge. She would not need a learning curve, either with a criminal or civil docket, and she would undoubtedly expedite said court's docket through her hard-work and

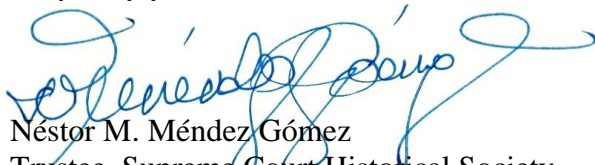
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diligence and add to its formidable reputation. Indeed, many of us federal practitioners believe that her confirmation as an Article III Judge is long overdue.

Of course, excellent professional experience, intelligence and diligence are but some of the necessary attributes of an Article III Judge. Life experiences, personality and character are just as important for a trial judge. Magistrate Judge Velez Rivé is also an extraordinary single mother who helped her child overcome a serious illness while unflinchingly and excellently performing her responsibilities as a Magistrate Judge, lecturing and continuing to assist her fellow magistrate judges. Not only that, but she is also an extraordinary daughter, sister and colleague-as all who have worked with her can attest to. And, she is a civic-minded citizen, including an extraordinary Life Fellow of the Foundation of the Federal bar Association, with whom I had the privilege of working as President of said Foundation and Chair of its Fellows.

What more could the Federal Judiciary and the Bar want and expect from an Article III Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico?

Very truly yours,



Néstor M. Méndez Gómez
Trustee, Supreme Court Historical Society
President, Foundation Puerto Rico Supreme Court
Sustaining Life Fellow, Foundation Federal Bar